

NORTHERN IRELAND

PS (2)
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/PUS
MR GOODALL

HD/RID
ep. HD/PUSD (2)
HD/INFO DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT



PS/ S of S
PS/MR R ANDREW, OAB 1/56
MR BRENNAN
MR BURNS
MR PN BELL

NIO

SIR R ARMSTRONG }
DIO } CABINET OFFICE

PS/ NO 10 DOWNING STREET (3)

UNCLASSIFIED
FM DUBLIN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
DELNO 786

IMMEDIATE

OF 181240Z NOVEMBER 85
INFO IMMEDIATE BIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON
INFO PRIORITY BONN, ATHENS, UKREP BRUSSELS, BRUSSELS EMBASSY,
COPENHAGEN, LUXEMBOURG, PARIS, ROME AND THE HAGUE.

ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT: PRESS REVIEW 18 NOVEMBER

SUMMARY

1. THE 3 MAIN THEMES OF THE CONTINUING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT IN TODAY'S IRISH PAPERS ARE: IRISH POLITICAL REACTIONS, SPECULATION ON THE NEXT MOVES, AND ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIONIST REACTION AND HMG'S PLANS FOR DEALING WITH IT.

DETAIL

2. THE IRISH TIMES LEADS WITH A REPORT OF A SPEECH MADE BY MR BARRY IN CORK YESTERDAY, HEADED 'BARRY APPEALS TO UNIONISTS AND HAUGHEY', IN WHICH THE MINISTER APPEALED TO FIANNA FAIL TO 'LOOK AGAIN' AT THE AGREEMENT. SAYING HE WAS 'SADDENED' BY THE FIANNA FAIL REACTION, WHICH SAID HE BELIEVED HAD BEEN 'BASED ON A MIS-APPREHENSION', MR BARRY SAID: 'FIANNA FAIL WOULD HAVE TO BE VERY CONFIDENT THAT THEY COULD DO BETTER THAN THE PRESENT AGREEMENT' BEFORE THEY ABANDONED IT. ADDRESSING UNIONISTS, MR BARRY SAID 'THEIR LEADERS ARE ABSOLUTELY WRONG AND THEY ARE TRAGICALLY MISTAKEN TO REGARD THE AGREEMENT AS A HUMILIATION. IT OFFERS A CHANCE FOR PEACE AND A CHANCE FOR PROSPERITY'. REMARKS BY THE TAOISEACH ON RTE RADIO YESTERDAY ARE ALSO WIDELY REPORTED. AMONGST OTHER THINGS, DR FITZGERALD SAID THAT ONE AIM OF THE AGREEMENT WAS TO MAKE IT LESS EASY FOR THE PIRA TO OPERATE.

3. TODAY'S PAPERS CARRY FURTHER REPORTS OF THE JOINT FINE GAEL AND LABOUR PARLIAMENTARY PARTY MEETINGS ON SATURDAY, FOLLOWING WHICH THE IRISH TIMES SAYS THE GOVERNMENT IS 'CONFIDENT OF SECURING A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY IN THE DAIL DEBATE'. THE IRISH TIMES SPECULATES THAT FIANNA FAIL 'MAY SWITCH TACTICS FOLLOWING A WEEKEND ASSESSMENT OF MR HAUGHEY THAT PUBLIC OPINION HAS REACTED UNFAVOURABLY TO HIS INITIAL STATEMENTS. SIMILAR REPORTS IN OTHER PAPERS ARE BASED ON THE FACT THAT MR HAUGHEY PULLED OUT OF AN INTERVIEW ON RTE, RADIO YESTERDAY. BUT A SPOKESMAN FOR FIANNA FAIL HAS DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT 'THERE WERE GOOD, SOLID, POLITICAL, LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REASONS FOR OPPOSING THE AGREEMENT.... WE WILL OPPOSE THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT OFFENDS THE FORUM DOCUMENT'. NEVERTHELESS, ALL THE PAPERS REPORT THAT MR HAUGHEY HAS BEEN TAKEN

ABACK BY MR MALLON'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS DEALT 'A SEVERE BLOW TO THE CREDIBILITY OF FIANNA FAIL'S OPPOSITION'. THE IRISH PRESS COMMENTS THAT MALLON HAS 'DONE THE BEST SALES JOB OF ALL AMONG CONSTITUTIONAL NATIONALISTS'. A CRITICAL IRISH TIMES EDITORIAL SAID THAT 'MEWLINGS ABOUT SMALL PRINT, WHICH TO THE MAN OR WOMAN IN THE STREET DIFFERS INFINITESIMALLY FROM THAT OF THE 1980 HAUGHEY/THATCHER COMMUNIQUE WILL BE DEALT WITH IMPATIENTLY, PARTICULARLY BY THE YOUNG, WHO THINK OF TOMORROW AND NOT YESTERDAY.'

4. THE IRISH INDEPENDENT LEADS WITH A REPORT HEADED 'FURTHER CHANGES ON WAY IN NORTH' WHICH, HOWEVER, DOES NOT STATE WHAT THESE ARE TO BE. THE IRISH TIMES PICKS UP REMARKS MADE ON BBC TV YESTERDAY BY DEPUTY MAURICE MANNING, THAT HE SUSPECTED THAT 'DECISIONS ON MAJOR THINGS' HAD BEEN TAKEN IN ADVANCE OF THE FIRST

MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE. MR KING'S REMARKS IN THE SAME PROGRAMME, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE AT ALL EASY TO SET UP MIXED COURTS, AND THAT THERE WERE NO PROPOSALS AT ALL TO REDUCE THE UDR, ARE ALSO REPORTED.

5. ON THE IRISH SIDE, MEASURES TO FOLLOW UP THE AGREEMENT ARE ALREADY BEING REPORTED. THE IRISH INDEPENDENT CARRIES ONE FRONT PAGE REPORT THAT EXTRA GARDAI ARE BEING SENT ON BORDER DUTY FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, TO BE ON THE ALERT FOR ANY TROUBLE ACCOMPANYING ANY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT, AND ANOTHER STATING THAT NEW LEGISLATION TO ENABLE THE REPUBLIC TO RATIFY THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM IS TO BE INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE LEGISLATION WILL MAKE CLEAR THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN 'POLITICAL' AND 'TERRORIST' AS ESTABLISHED IN RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISIONS. ANOTHER FRONT PAGE REPORT IN THE IRISH INDEPENDENT REPORTS THAT THE NEW SECRETARIAT WILL BE ON 24 HOUR DUTY, WITH A STAFF OF 10 OPERATING A DOUBLE ROSTER SYSTEM. THE IRISH TEAM IS NOW EXPECTING TO CONSIST OF LILLIS, O'CEALLAIGH AND OTHER OFFICIALS FROM THE DFA AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

6. UNIONIST REACTION IS THE LEAD STORY IN THE IRISHPRESS AND THE CORK EXAMINER. UNDER THE HEADLINE 'BACKLASH PLAN READY: BRITAIN TO RESIST THREAT OF LOYALIST', THE IRISH PRESS REPORTS THAT A SPECIAL UNIT HAS BEEN SET UP IN THE CABINET OFFICE HEADED BY DAVID GOODALL, TO DEAL WITH A CAMPAIGN OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE 'SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS WILL BE STOPPED FOR PEOPLE WHO TAKE PART IN LOYALIST STRIKES AND GRANTS TO AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY WILL BE FROZEN'. THE CORK EXAMINER COMMENTS EDITORIALY 'PERHAPS AT LONG LAST HERE IS A BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WHO WILL TRUMP THE ORANGE CARD', WHILST THE IRISH PRESS SAYS: 'THE UNIONISTS ARE THE ONES WHO ALWAYS WANTED BRITISH RULE. NOW THEY HAVE GOT IT AND THEY HAVE FOUND OUT WHAT IT IS TO BE A TINY MINORITY INSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM. BIN A UNITED IRELAND, THEIR INFLUENCE WOULD BE GIGANTIC BY COMPARISON'.

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